

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 42

By Lynn

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bobby Hamilton of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Bobby Hamilton, former Nashville Speedway USA track champion, and NASCAR legend; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 Craftsman Truck Series Champion and a four-time winner in the Cup Series, Bobby Hamilton began his racing career at the Nashville Speedway at the Fairgrounds and worked his way up to the top level of NASCAR racing; and

WHEREAS, making his Cup debut in 1989, Bobby Hamilton is perhaps best known for his unusual entrance into NASCAR's top circuit: he was hired to run the Cup Series full time as a result of his stunning performance as a stunt driver for the 1990 movie *Days of Thunder*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamilton's first full season at the Cup level was in 1991, when he captured the NWCS Rookie of the Year prize. This was three years after he had beat Darrell Waltrip, Sterling Marlin, and Bill Elliott in a special four-car "Superstar Showdown" event at Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Bobby Hamilton was hired to drive the No. 43 car of Petty Enterprises, he resurrected the ailing team with ten top-10 finishes in 1995, and, in 1996, he won at Phoenix, which helped him finish a career best ninth in points; and

WHEREAS, after winning at Rockingham in 1997, Mr. Hamilton moved to Morgan-McClure Motorsports for the 1998-2000 seasons; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Bobby Hamilton moved to Andy Petree Racing's two-car team after successive three-year stints with Petty Enterprises and MMM; he won his fourth career race when he captured the Talladega 500 at Talladega Superspeedway in 2001; and

WHEREAS, he quit driving in the Cup Series after the 2002 season to focus on his thriving Craftsman Truck Series team; Bobby Hamilton continued his legacy as a champion when he won the Truck Series title in 2004; and

WHEREAS, after being diagnosed with head and neck cancer in February of 2006, Bobby Hamilton raced in the Truck Series' first three events of the season, with a best finish of 14th at Atlanta Motor Speedway, before turning over the wheel to his son, Bobby Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Hamilton was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Lori, his son, Bobby Hamilton, Jr., and a granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Hamilton leaves behind a legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional athlete and human being, who will be greatly missed by the many fellow drivers he helped along the way; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Bobby Hamilton, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and his indelible legacy as the "racer's racer" who could relate to people from all walks of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and many friends of Mr. Hamilton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.